

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel Claims 1-33 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please add new Claims 34-37 to read as follows.

Claims 1-33 (cancelled).

34. (New) An image printing apparatus for driving a plurality of blocks by time division to print an image, each block having a predetermined number of printing elements grouped from a plurality printing elements, comprising:

first driving means for driving blocks by supplying a main pulse for discharging ink from printing elements of a block every divided period;

second driving means for driving blocks by supplying a main pulse for discharging ink from printing elements of a block during one of divided periods, and supplying at least one preheating pulse for preheating the printing elements of the block but not to discharge ink during at least one other of the divided periods; and

image printing means for selecting either one of said first and second driving means, and printing the image using the selected driving means.

35. (New) The apparatus according to claim 34, wherein a number of the divided periods is two.

36. (New) The apparatus according to claim 35, wherein said second driving means performs one ink discharging using the at least one preheating pulse and the main pulse in successive divided periods.

37. (New) The apparatus according to claim 35, wherein the image printing means selects either one of first and second driving means in accordance with a temperature of a printhead.